

Remarks / Arguments

In complete response to the outstanding Official Action of May 27, 2004, on the above-identified application, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-16 remain in this application. Claims 1-9, and 17 have been cancelled.
Claim 10 has been amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that Claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 10 has been amended to include all the limitations of Claim 17, and Claim 17 has been cancelled. Applicants submit that Claim 10 is now allowable. Since claim 10 is allowable over the prior art, claims 11-16 are also allowable since they are dependent upon it.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 10 and 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Robertson et al. '911. Amendments made to Claim 10 have rendered this rejection moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Robertson et al. '911 in view of Takano '234. Amendments made to claim 11 have rendered this rejection moot.

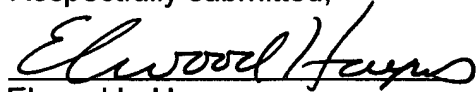
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Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Robertson et al. '911 in view of Rieger '653. Amendments made to claim 11 have rendered this rejection moot.

Conclusion

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the examiner believe a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of the application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

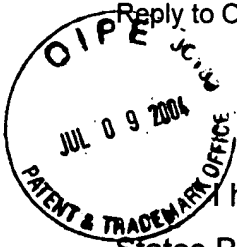


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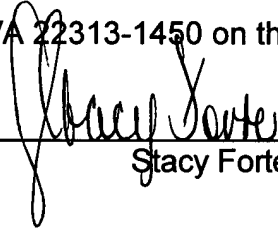
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 6th day of July, 2004.



Stacy Forte